

Message Text

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ACTION ERDA-07

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TAGS: TECH, FR, GW

SUBJECT: FRANCO-GERMAN COOPERATION IN LMFBR AND HTR
FIELDS

REF: A. BONN 03344; B. PARIS 06040; C. STATE 047136

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENTS: FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL
TRANSLATION OF FRENCH-GERMAN MINISTERIAL DECLARATION
ABOUT BILATERAL COOPERATION IN ADVANCED REACTOR SYSTEMS.
TEXT WAS PASSED TO EMBASSY IN CONFIDENCE. FRG AND
FRANCE DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO PUBLISH IT AT PRESENT
TIME. ARTICLES II, III AND IV, WITH THEIR EMPHASIS
ON COMPARABLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT THE POINT
MADE IN REF B AND SUGGEST THAT MAINTENANCE OF FISCAL
EQUALITY IS VIEWED AS A POSSIBLE PROBLEM. ARTICLE V.
PROVIDES PARTICIPATION OF THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE
FRENCH-GERMAN PROGRAM ALTHOUGH, HERE TOO, THE LANGUAGE
IS CAUTIOUS AND COMPLEX. EMBASSY S&T COUNSELOR MET
WITH TECHMIN OFFICIALS TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. THEY
AGREED ARTICLE V. WAS BADLY DRAFTED BUT ASSURED EMBOFF
THAT US IS ONE OF GERMANY'S CURRENT PARTNERS IN REACTOR
R&D IN THE SENSE OF THIS ARTICLE AND THAT THIS
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GERMAN-FRENCH DECLARATION WILL NOT RPT NOT IMPEDE

GERMAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN INFORMAL TRANSLATION:

JOINT DECLARATION
OF THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
AND THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH
OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
ABOUT GERMAN-FRENCH COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF ADVANCED REACTOR SYSTEMS

I.

THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ARE OF THE VIEW THAT FAST BREEDER REACTORS AND HIGH TEMPERATURE REACTORS WILL COME TO HAVE A UNIQUE SIGNIFICANCE IN VARIOUS RESPECTS WHICH JUSTIFIES THEIR DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH LIGHT WATER REACTORS WITHIN THE PROGRAM FOR PROMOTING THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

THE TWO MINISTERS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT FAST BREEDER REACTORS WILL PROVE THEMSELVES MORE AND MORE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE ADVANTAGES WHICH THEY OFFER IN THE UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR FUELS. A CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY IN THIS AREA WOULD ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFE, RELIABLE AND ECONOMIC FACILITIES AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY OF THE ENERGY SUPPLY.

THE TWO MINISTERS ARE FURTHER OF THE OPINION THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH TEMPERATURE REACTORS IS OF GREAT UTILITY BECAUSE OF THE MULTIPLE SPECIFIC CAPABILITIES OF THESE REACTORS, WITH THEIR DIFFERENT AREAS OF APPLICATION AND THEIR TYPICAL PROPERTIES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE ENVIRONMENT. ALSO IN THIS AREA, COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY COULD ACCELERATE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPMENT AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE CURRENT NEEDS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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THE TWO MINISTERS HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO CONDUCT
AND SUPPORT COOPERATIVE WORK IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. SODIUM-COOLED FAST BREEDER
REACTORS (SNR)
2. HIGH TEMPERATURE REACTORS (HTR)

THE COOPERATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE AREAS OF RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT, CONCEPTUAL STUDIES, TECHNICAL PLANNING,
CONSTRUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF REACTORS, PRODUCTION OF
COMPONENTS, AS WELL AS THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE.
OBVIOUSLY THIS COOPERATION MUST BE DEVELOPED IN THE
LONG TERM IN ORDER TO COVER THE MARKETING PHASE OF THE
SNR AND HTR AS WELL.

II.

WITH REGARD TO COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF THE SNR,
BOTH MINISTERS TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THE ELECTRIC
UTILITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THOSE OF ITALY
HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS AND THAT THE FRENCH
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AND GERMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTES AS WELL AS THE PARTICIPATING INDUSTRIES IN FRANCE AND GERMANY INTEND TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO CONDUCT SUCH COOPERATION AT THE LEVEL OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH A HARMONIZATION OF THE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS AT THE INDUSTRIAL LEVEL THROUGH A COORDINATION OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE MARKETING PROCESS. THE MINISTERS DECLARE ON THEIR SIDE THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL PROVIDE EXTENSIVE FUNDS OF COMPARABLE AMOUNTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BUDGET AT THEIR DISPOSAL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THESE MEASURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SNR.

III.

WITH RESPECT TO THE FIELD OF THE HTR THE TWO MINISTERS TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN FRENCH AND GERMAN PARTNERS AT VARIOUS LEVELS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE AREAS OF APPLICATION OF THESE REACTORS WHICH ARE OF PRIORITY INTEREST FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES. THIS HARMONIZATION SHOULD LEAD TO THE DETERMINATION OF THE AREAS OF APPLICATION WHICH ARE OF COMMON INTEREST FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES AND IN WHICH COOPERATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED AT THE LEVEL OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AT THE INDUSTRIAL LEVEL, AND AT THE LEVEL OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITIES. THE MINISTERS DECLARE THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST DETERMINED IN THIS WAY AND STATE THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL PROVIDE FUNDS IN THESE AREAS IN COMPARABLE AMOUNTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AVAILABLE BUDGET.

IV.

CORRESPONDING TO THE FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE II AND III, THE TOTAL SUM MADE AVAILABLE BY ONE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR THE SNR AND HTR PROGRAMS OF COMMON INTEREST SHOULD BE COMPARABLE TO THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE OTHER COUNTRY FOR THE SAME PROGRAMS.

THE MINISTERS WILL CONSULT EACH OTHER REGULARLY ABOUT THE PROMOTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SNR AND HTR; SHOULD A FINANCIAL IMBALANCE OCCUR IN THE COURSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GERMAN-FRENCH COOPERATION, THEN THE TWO MINISTERS WILL IN PARTICULAR JOINTLY EXAMINE WHAT STEPS ARE TO BE TAKEN FOR RESTORATION OF THE EQUALITY OF EXPENDITURES AND WHICH PROMOTION MEASURES AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF COMPETITIVITY.

V.

THE TWO MINISTERS WILL ALSO ENDEAVOR TO COORDINATE THE
REALIZATION OF GERMAN-FRENCH COOPERATION AS HARMONICAL-
LY AND EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE CONDUCT OF THE
AGREEMENTS WHICH BOTH STATES HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED
WITH THIRD PARTIES, WITH STATES, INSTITUTES OR INDUS-
TRIAL ENTERPRISES. MOREOVER, THE MINISTERS WILL MAKE IT
POSSIBLE FOR PARTNERS IN THIRD COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY
THOSE WHICH ALREADY COOPERATE WITH FRENCH OR GERMAN
INSTITUTES, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GERMAN-FRENCH COOPERA-
TION, IF NECESSARY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF INDUSTRY
AND THE ELECTRIC UTILITIES. BOTH COUNTRIES WILL KEEP
OPEN FOR THEIR PRESENT PARTNERS THE POSSIBILITY OF PAR-
TICIPATION IN THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AGREED HERE.

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VI.

THE TWO MINISTERS WILL INSURE THAT THE QUESTION OF
THE OBLIGATIONS RESULTING FROM THIS DECLARATION WILL BE

REGULATED AS NECESSARY IN SEPARATE OPERATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

THE AGREEMENTS ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IN THE FIELD OF THE FAST BREEDER REACTOR AND IN THE FIELD OF THE HIGH TEMPERATURE REACTOR MUST BE WORKED OUT BY THE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES INVOLVED WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE CORRESPONDING AGREEMENTS WHICH BIND ALL THE GERMAN AND FRENCH PARTNERS WHICH PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS IN INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION. THESE SHOULD BE DONE AT THE SAME TIME.

THE MINISTERS AGREE THAT THE OBLIGATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS DECLARATION WILL BE VALID AS LONG AS IS NECESSARY FOR THE SMOOTH COMPLETION OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT PARTIES.

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VII.

REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO MINISTRIES IN ORDER TO MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE COURSE OF COOPERATION, TO PROPOSE FURTHER MEASURES AND TO PREPARE NEW PHASES AS NECESSARY; TO THESE CONSULTATIONS CAN BE INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS AREAS OF ACTIVITY, THE ELECTRIC UTILITIES, THE INDUSTRY AND THE RESEARCH INSTITUTES.

IN ADDITION, ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES WILL BE APPOINTED AT VARIOUS OTHER LEVELS IN ORDER TO INSURE THE PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF THE MEASURES AGREED IN THIS DECLARATION.

SIGNED AT NICE, FEBRUARY 13 BY

MINISTERS D'ORNANO AND MATTHOEFER

END INFORMAL TRANSLATION.

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